

STARBLAZER

A dynamic comic book illustration for the cover of Starblazer No. 25. The scene is set in a futuristic, industrial environment with red and green metallic structures. A large, blue and yellow robotic arm with a gun barrel at its end is reaching towards the center. In the center, a man in a green and orange spacesuit with a white helmet is running towards the viewer. He is holding a glowing blue energy weapon in his right hand. The background shows a complex network of pipes, valves, and mechanical components, creating a sense of a high-tech, possibly underground or space-based, setting.

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 25

12p

GALACTIC SHOOTOUT

STARBLAZER

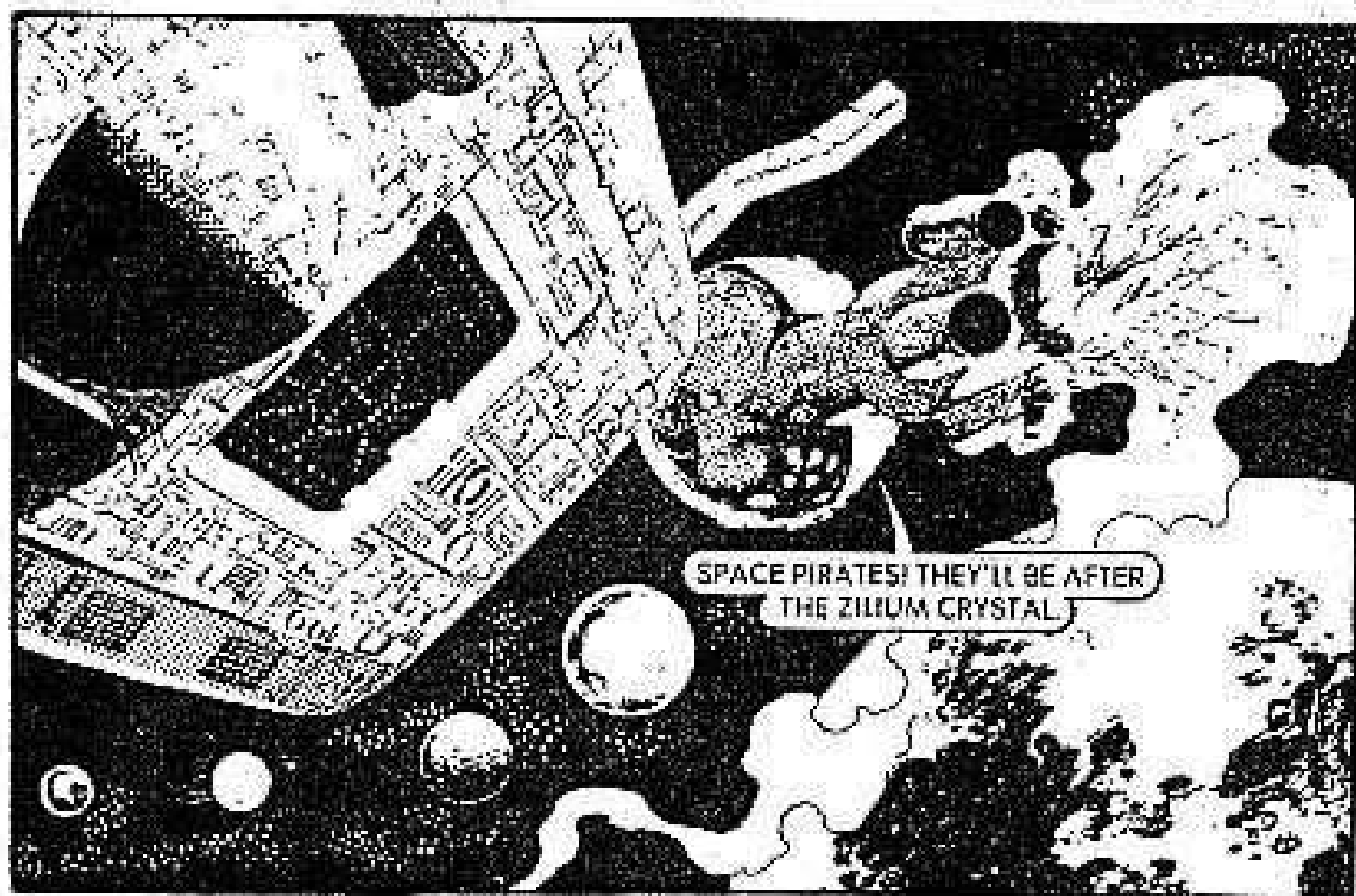


SPACE
WAS A VAST HAVEN
FOR THE DREGS OF EVERY
WORLD. SMUGGLERS, HI-JACKERS
AND PIRATES ROAMED THE DEPTHS
PLUNDERING CARGO VESSELS. THE LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOUGHT A
CONSTANT BATTLE TO CLEAR SPACE OF
THESE PARASITIC CRIMINALS—AND OFTEN
IT WAS A LOSING BATTLE. RIK TOR, A
YOUNG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER,
HAD THE TASK OF TRACKING
CRIMINALS ALL OVER KNOWN
SPACE . . . AND HIS TASK
ALWAYS ENDED
IN A . . .

GALACTIC SHOOTOUT



RIK WAS ABOARD A DEEP SPACE FREIGHTER, ON HIS WAY TO ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT, WHEN A PIRATE SHIP ATTACKED IT. EVEN HE COULDN'T PREVENT IT.



A TRANSPORTER TUBE SNAKED OUT
FROM THE PIRATE SHIP



WE'RE ABOUT TO BE BOARDED



WE'D BETTER GET DOWN TO THE
AIRLOCK AND HOLD THEM OFF

THE DOOR'S GOING TO
GIVE ANY MOMENT

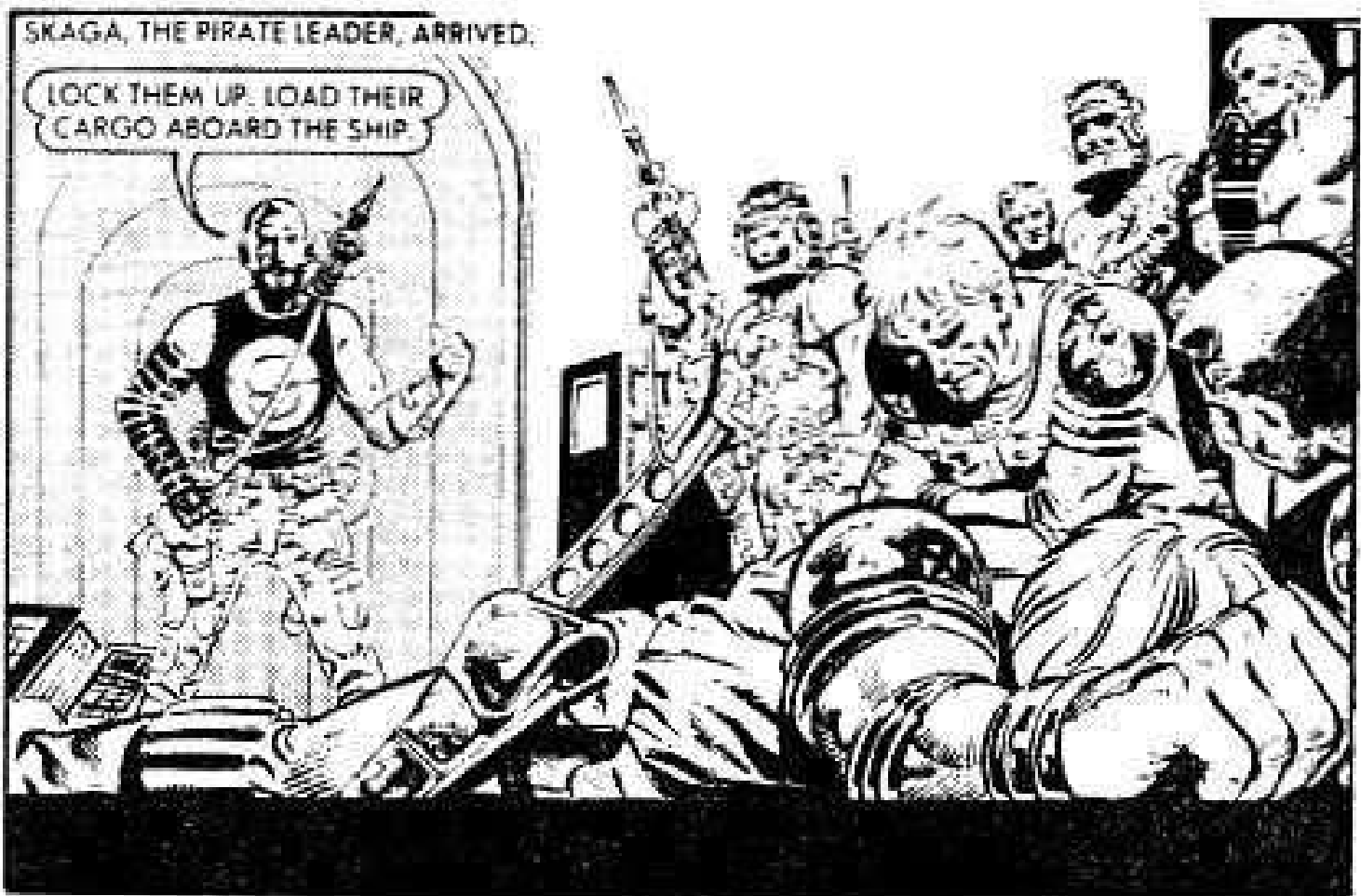


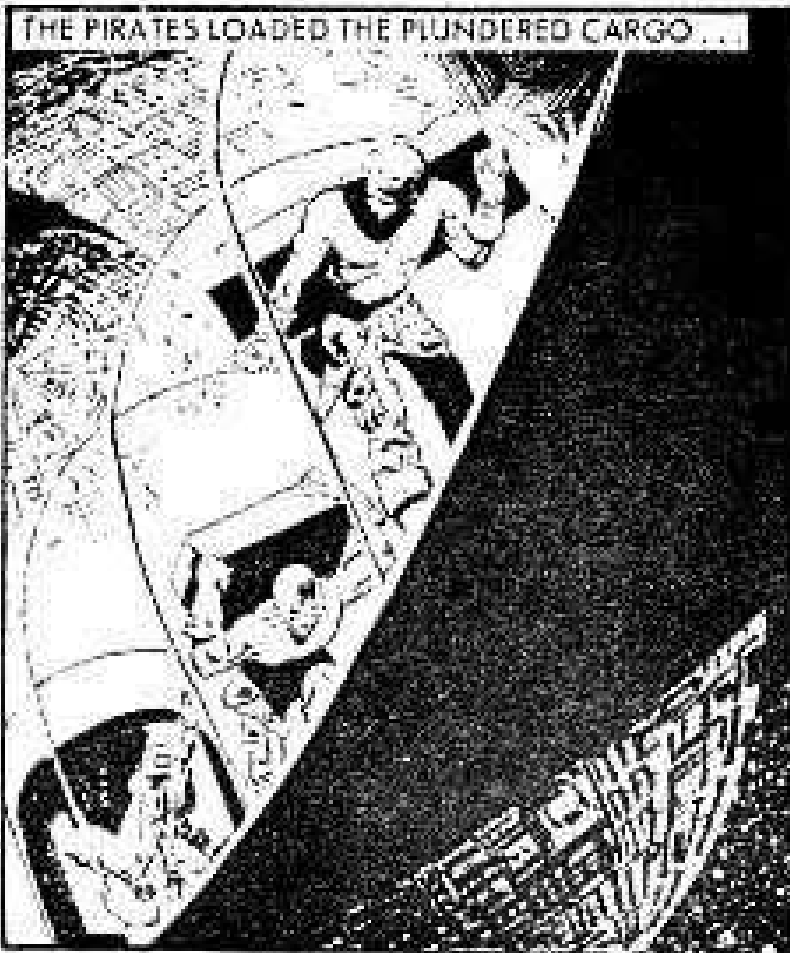
THE DOOR COLLAPSED AND A HORDE OF PIRATES SWEEP IN.

SURRENDER OR DIE!

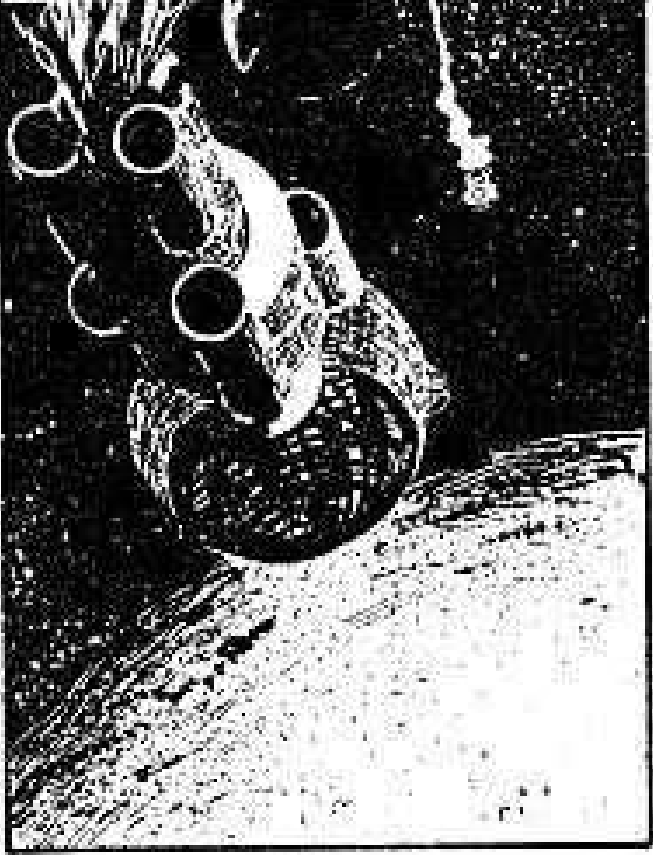
BUT RIK COULDN'T DO A THING TO HOLD THEM OFF.



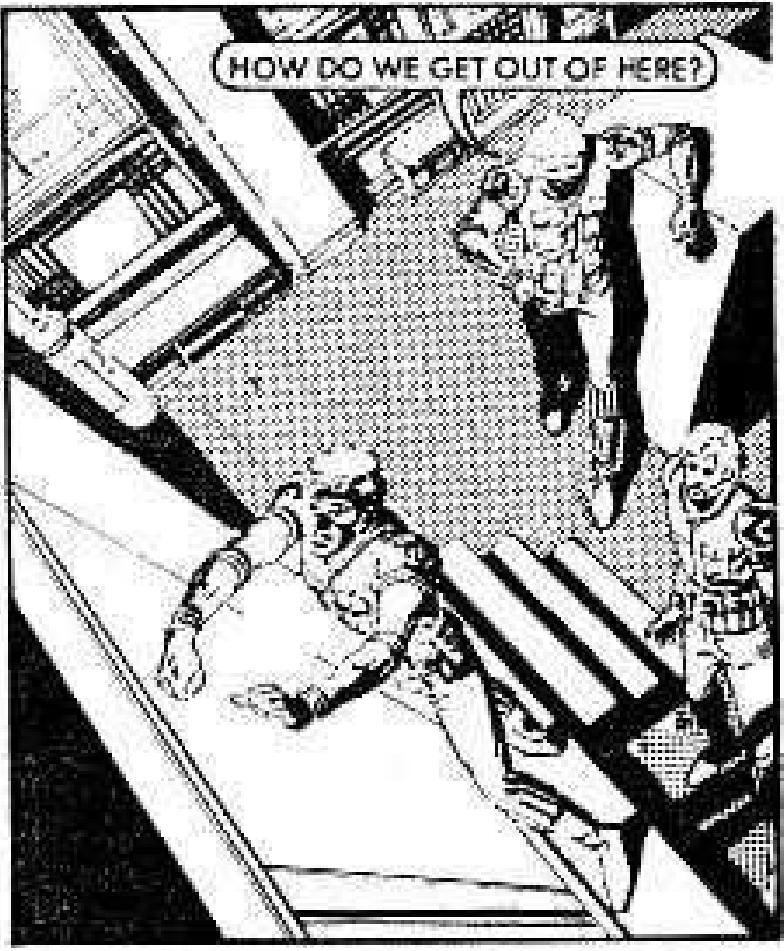




THE FREIGHTER DRIFTED AIMLESSLY—
WITH A TRAPPED CREW.



HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RIK
TOR WASN'T CONTENT TO SIT
ABOUT.

THERE'S NOT MUCH HERE EXCEPT
THESE BOXES OF EXPANDAFOAM.





INSTANTLY THE FOAM EXPANDED.



HOLD YOUR BREATH, AND
HOPE THIS WORKS.

THE INTENSE PRESSURE BURST
THE AIRTIGHT DOOR AND THE
CREW TUMBLED OUT.



HOW DO WE GET THE SHIP MOVING NOW?



RIK SEARCHED THE REMAINING HOLDS.

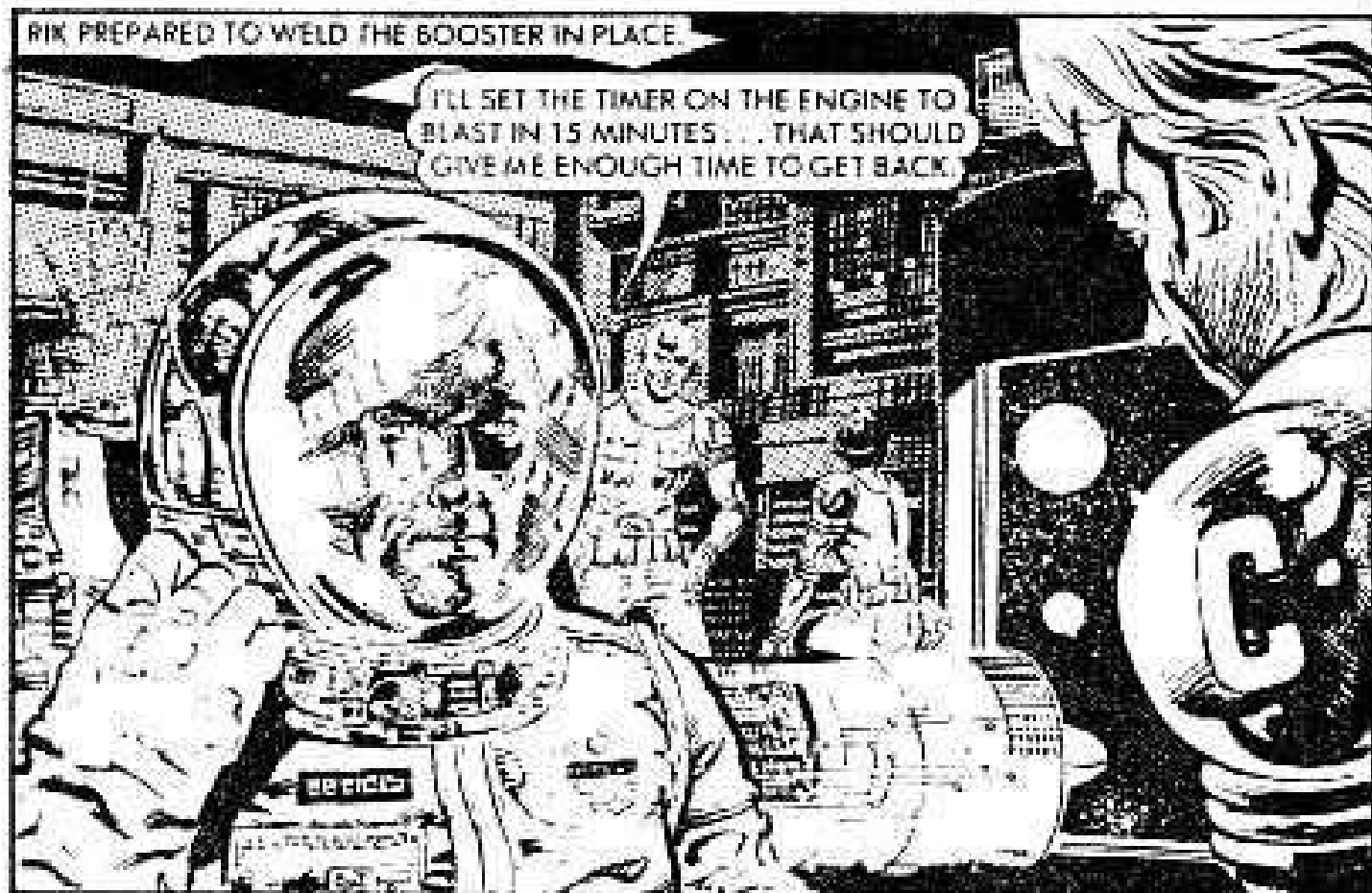
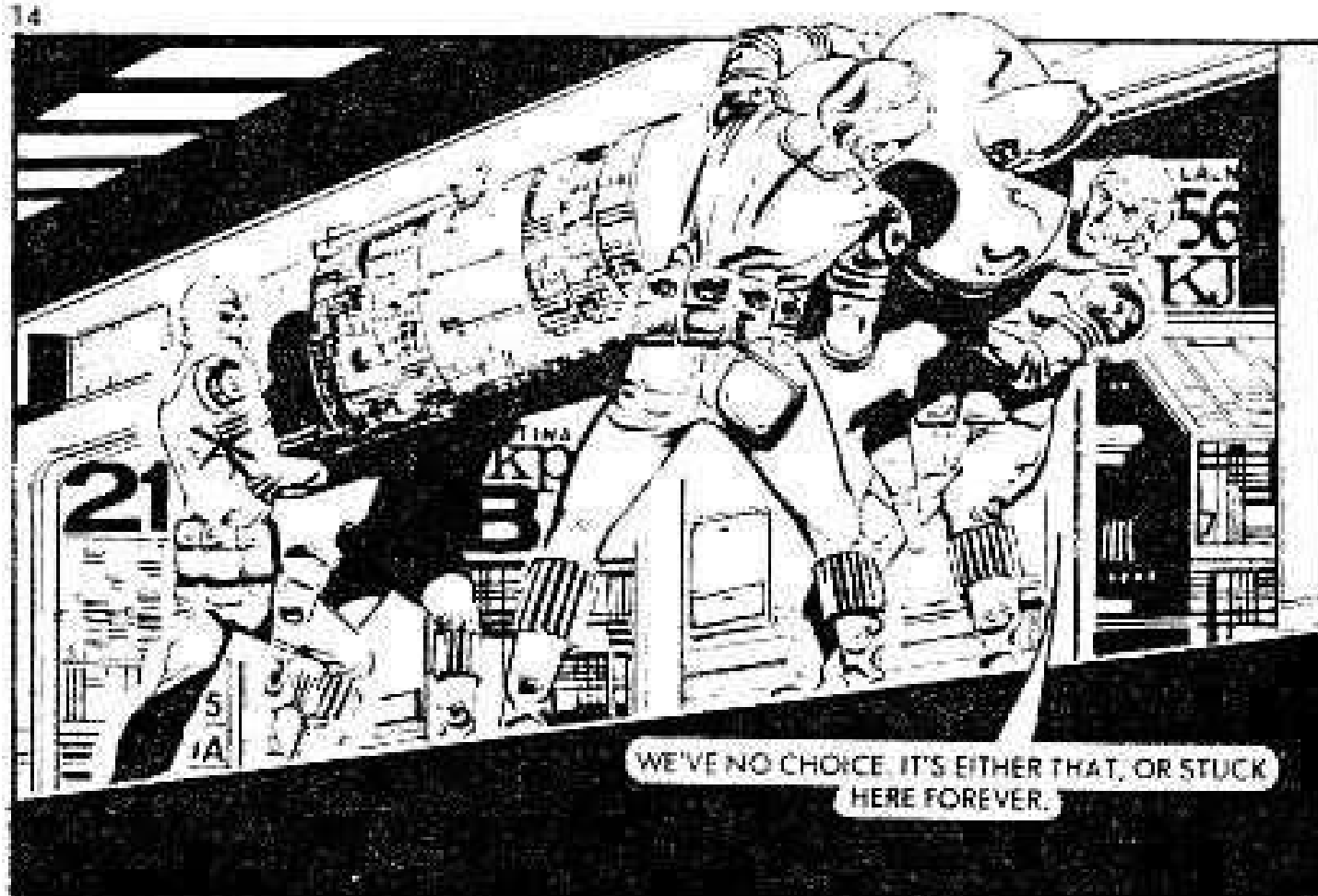
EB 10

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BOOSTER ENGINES! OBSOLETE, BUT JUST WHAT WE NEED.

rs





OUTSIDE, IN THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE, RIK STRUGGLED TO FIT THE BOOSTER.

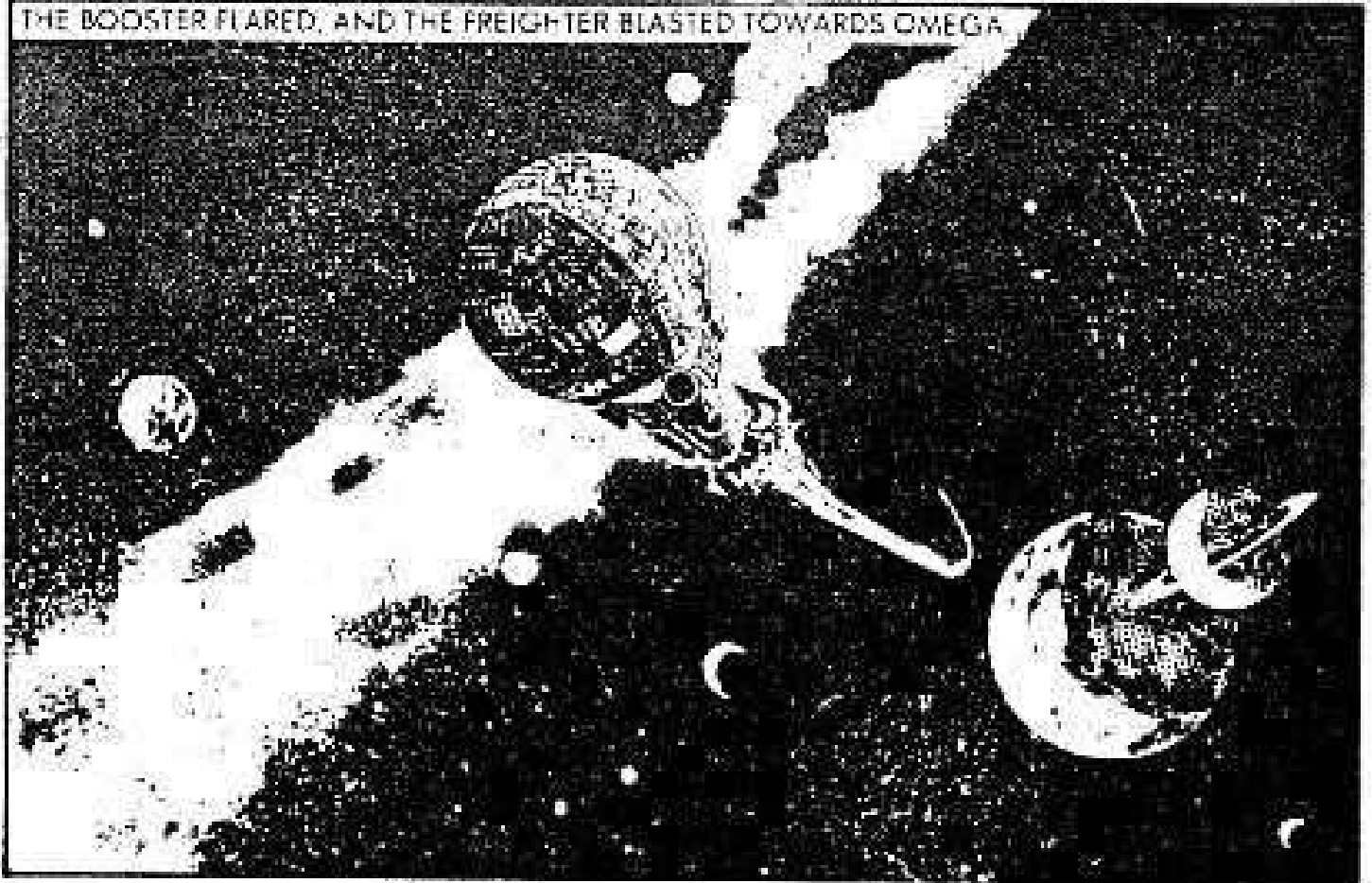
THAT SHOULD HOLD. I'D BETTER GET
BACK INSIDE BEFORE IT BLASTS.

RIK RETURNED.

IT SHOULD BLAST ANY MOMENT. THOSE
PIRATES DID A THOROUGH JOB OF
WRECKING THE COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT.

I'VE AIMED US AT SPACE STATION
OMEGA. I HOPE THEY CAN STOP US.

THE BOOSTER FLARED, AND THE FREIGHTER BLASTED TOWARDS OMEGA.



IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF SPACE STATION OMEGA

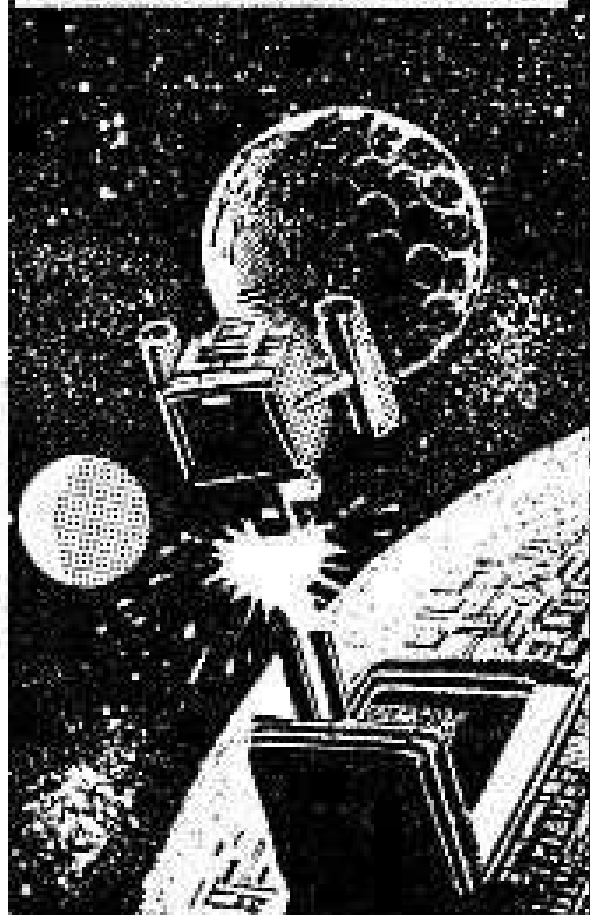
SIR, THERE'S AN OBJECT HURTLING TOWARDS US!
LATCH 7, COLLISION COURSE

WARN THEM!





THE SALVAGE SHIP WAS LAUNCHED.

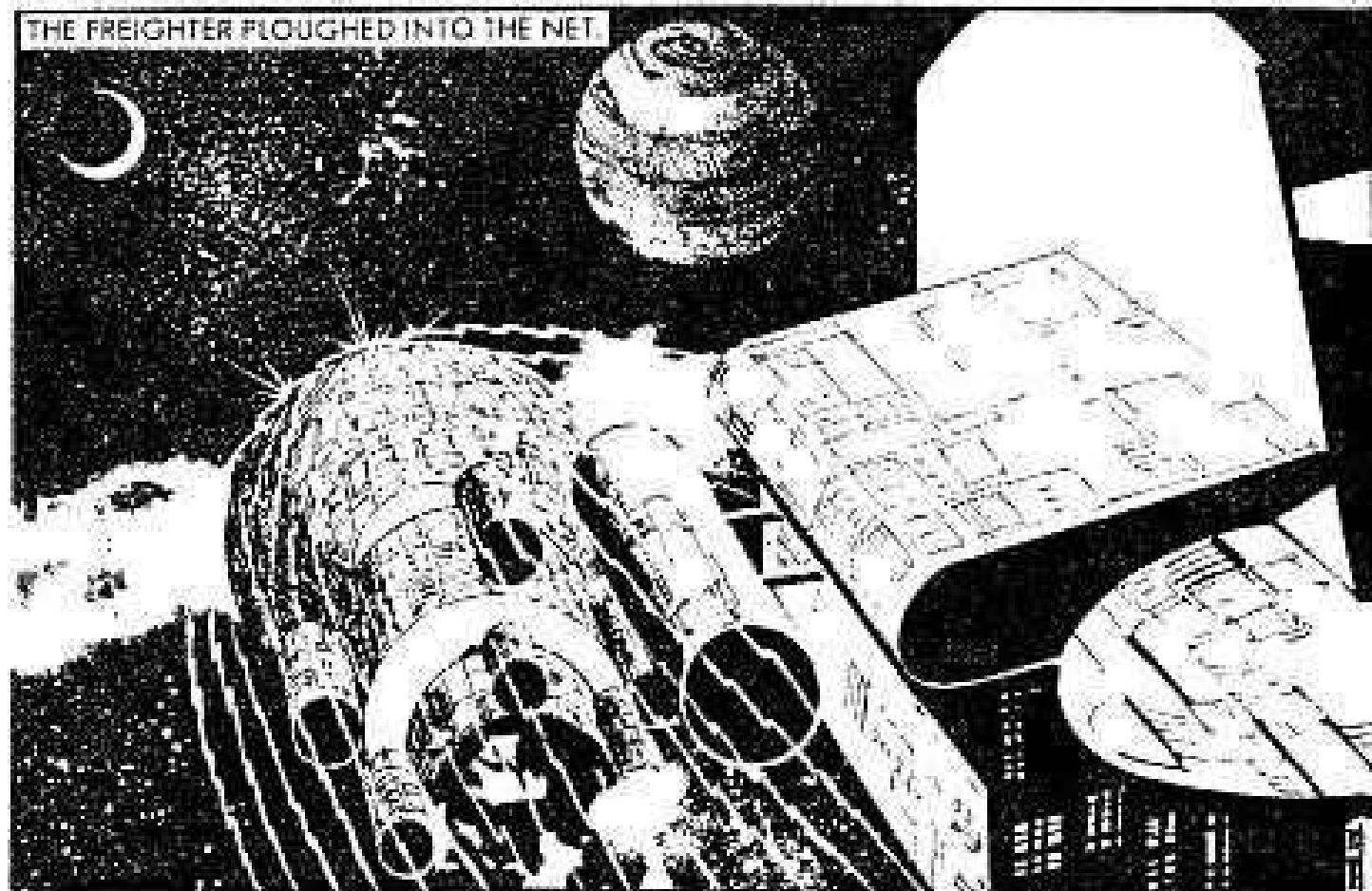


WE CAN STOP THAT ... IT'LL BE WORTH A FEW CREDITS IN SALVAGE.

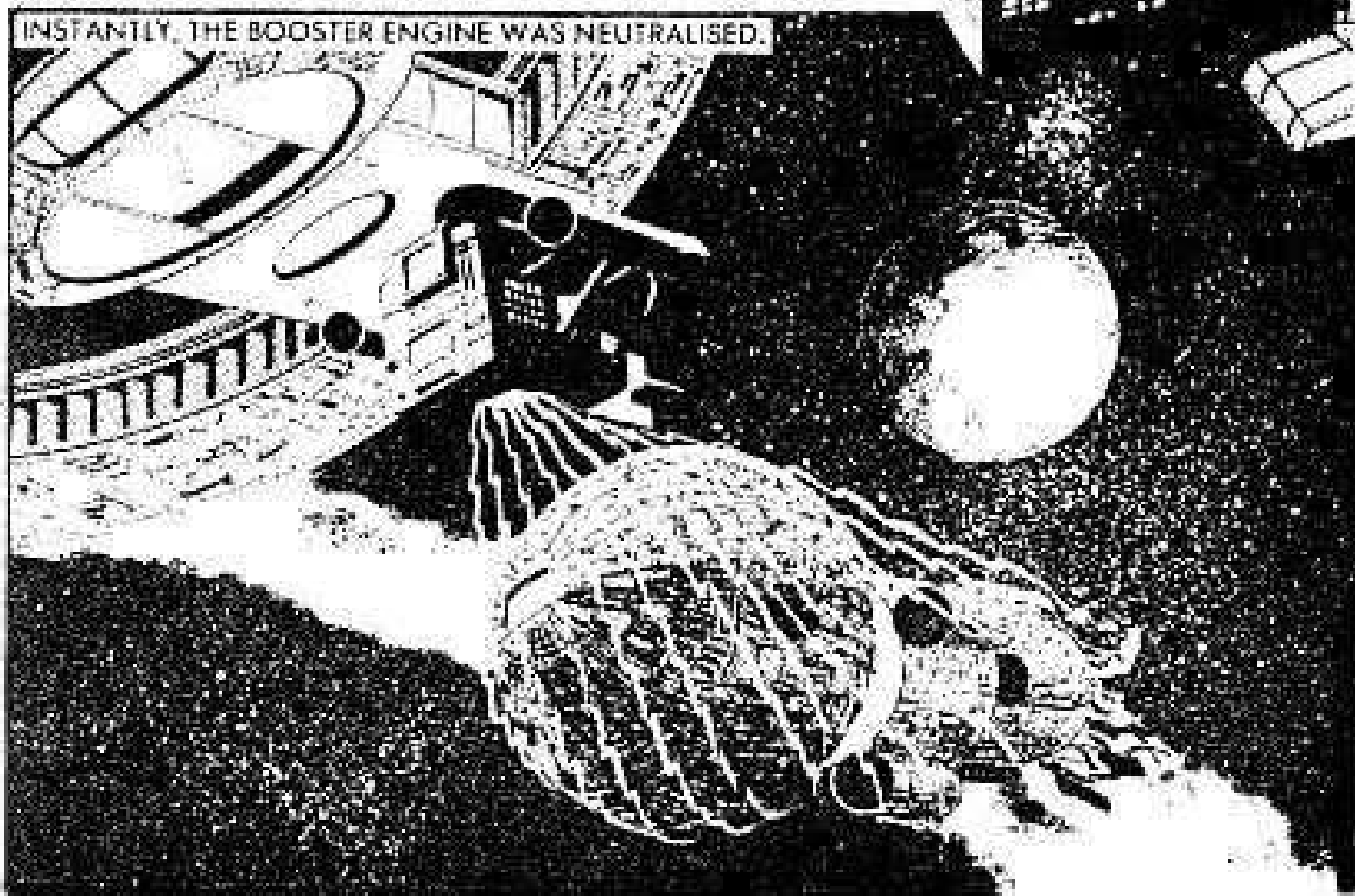




THE FREIGHTER FLOUGHED INTO THE NET.

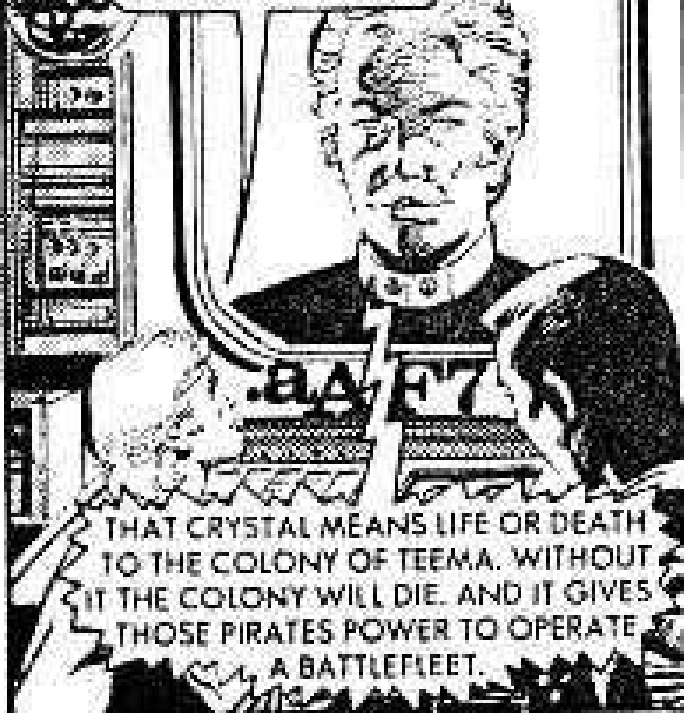


INSTANTLY, THE BOOSTER ENGINE WAS NEUTRALISED.



RIK AND THE OTHERS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE SPACE STATION. RIK IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED EARTH.

... PART OF THE CARGO WAS THE ZILIUM CRYSTAL, SIR.



THAT CRYSTAL MEANS LIFE OR DEATH TO THE COLONY OF TEEMA. WITHOUT IT THE COLONY WILL DIE. AND IT GIVES THOSE PIRATES POWER TO OPERATE A BATTLEFLEET.



LINK UP WITH THE ROBOT CORPS IMMEDIATELY. YOUR ORDERS WILL BE WAITING.

YES, SIR.

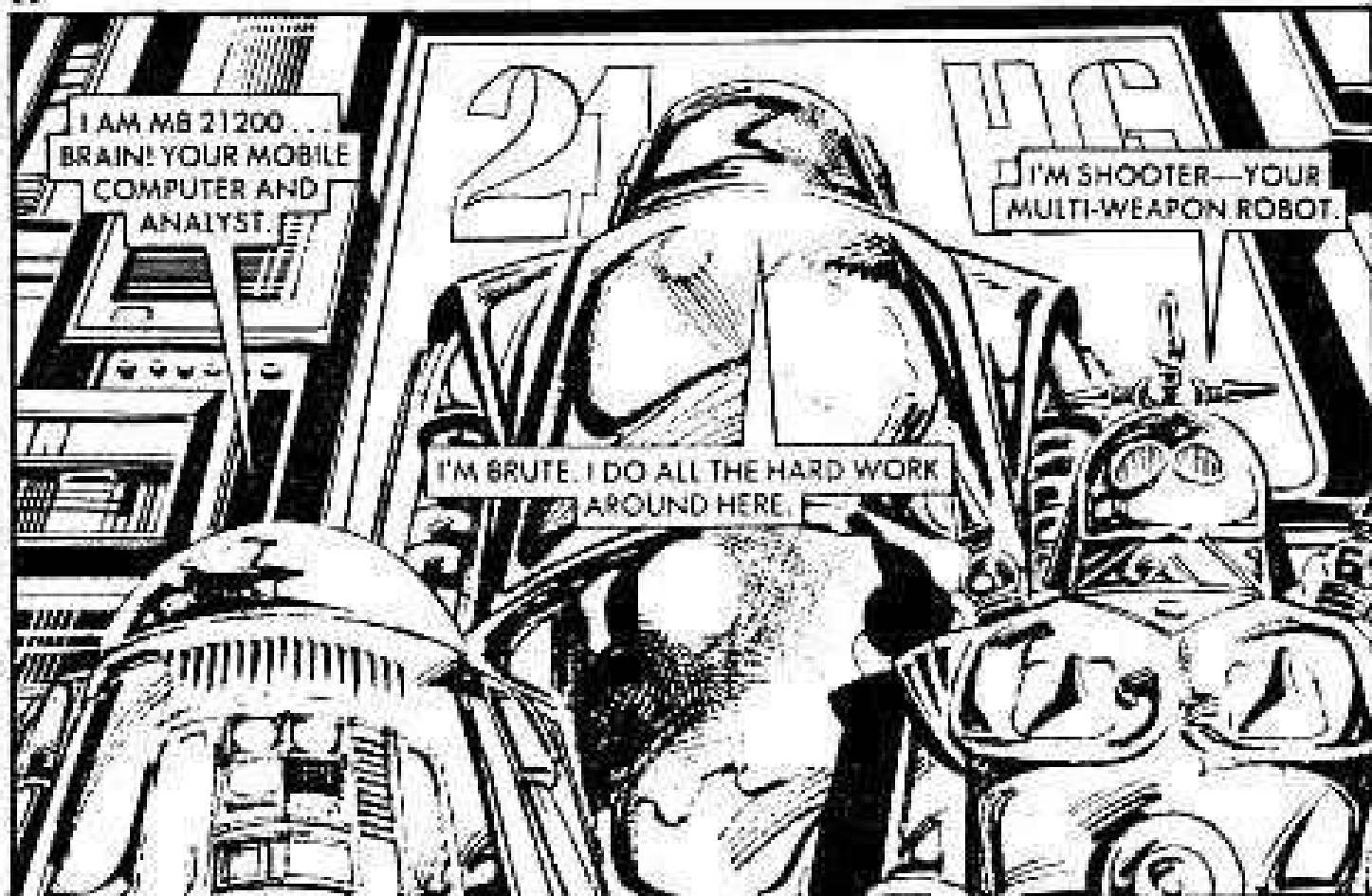
IT TOOK RIK 0.7 SPATIALS TO REACH ZETA, THE ROBOT CORPS H.Q.



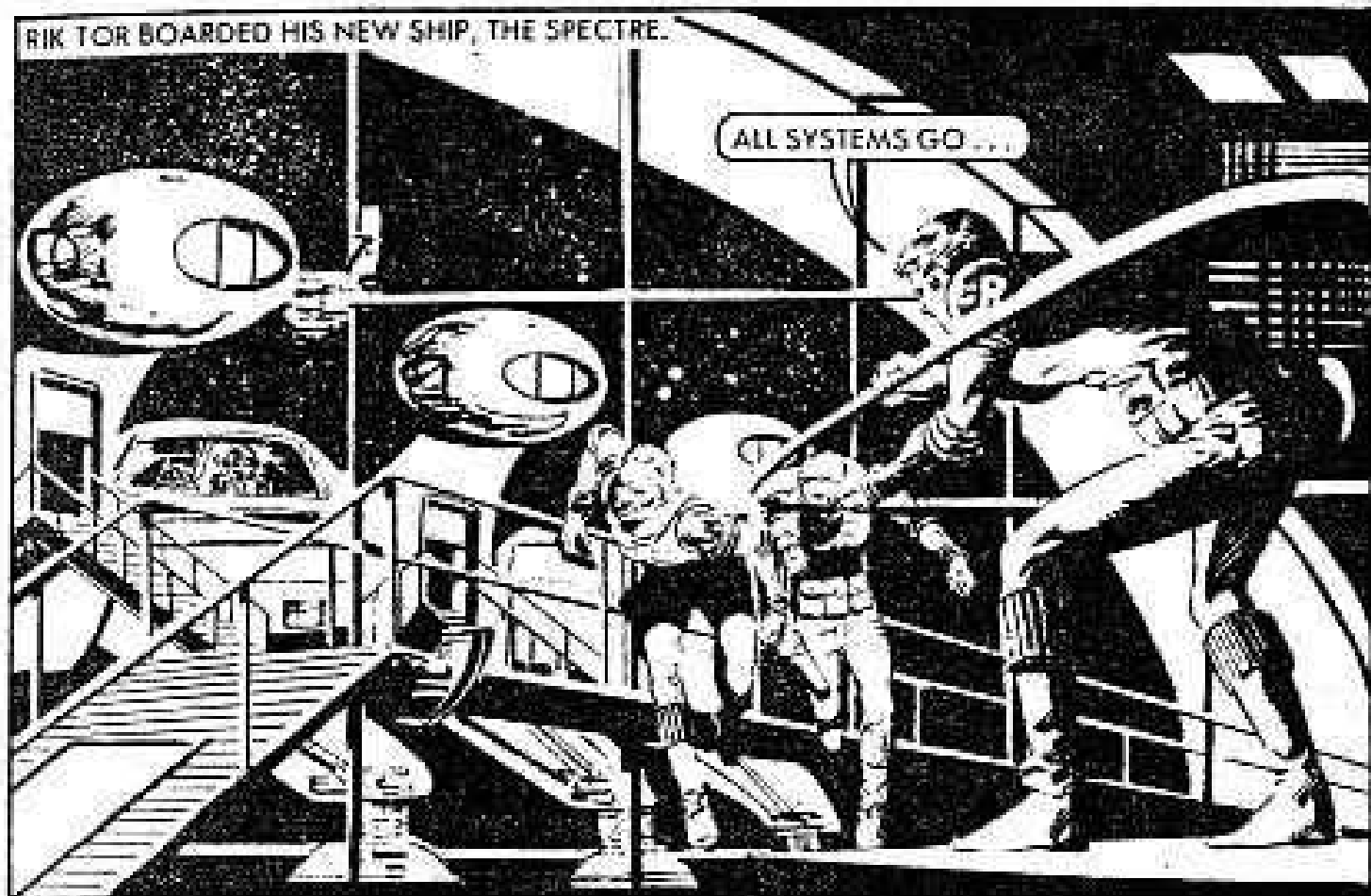
YOUR NEW TEAM IS WAITING FOR YOU!



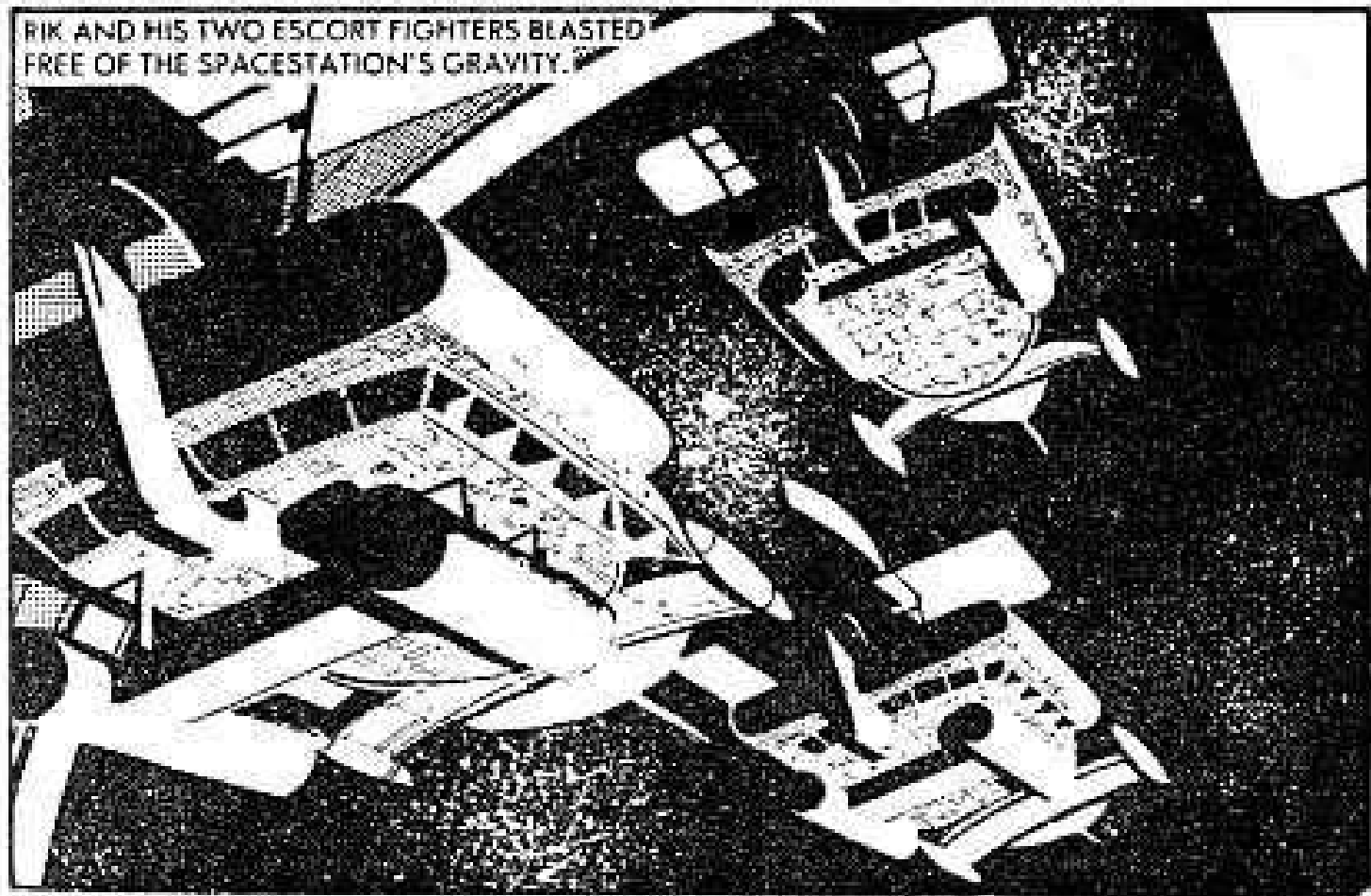
THIS IS YOUR TEAM. THEY
CAN INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.



RIK TOR BOARDED HIS NEW SHIP, THE SPECTRE.

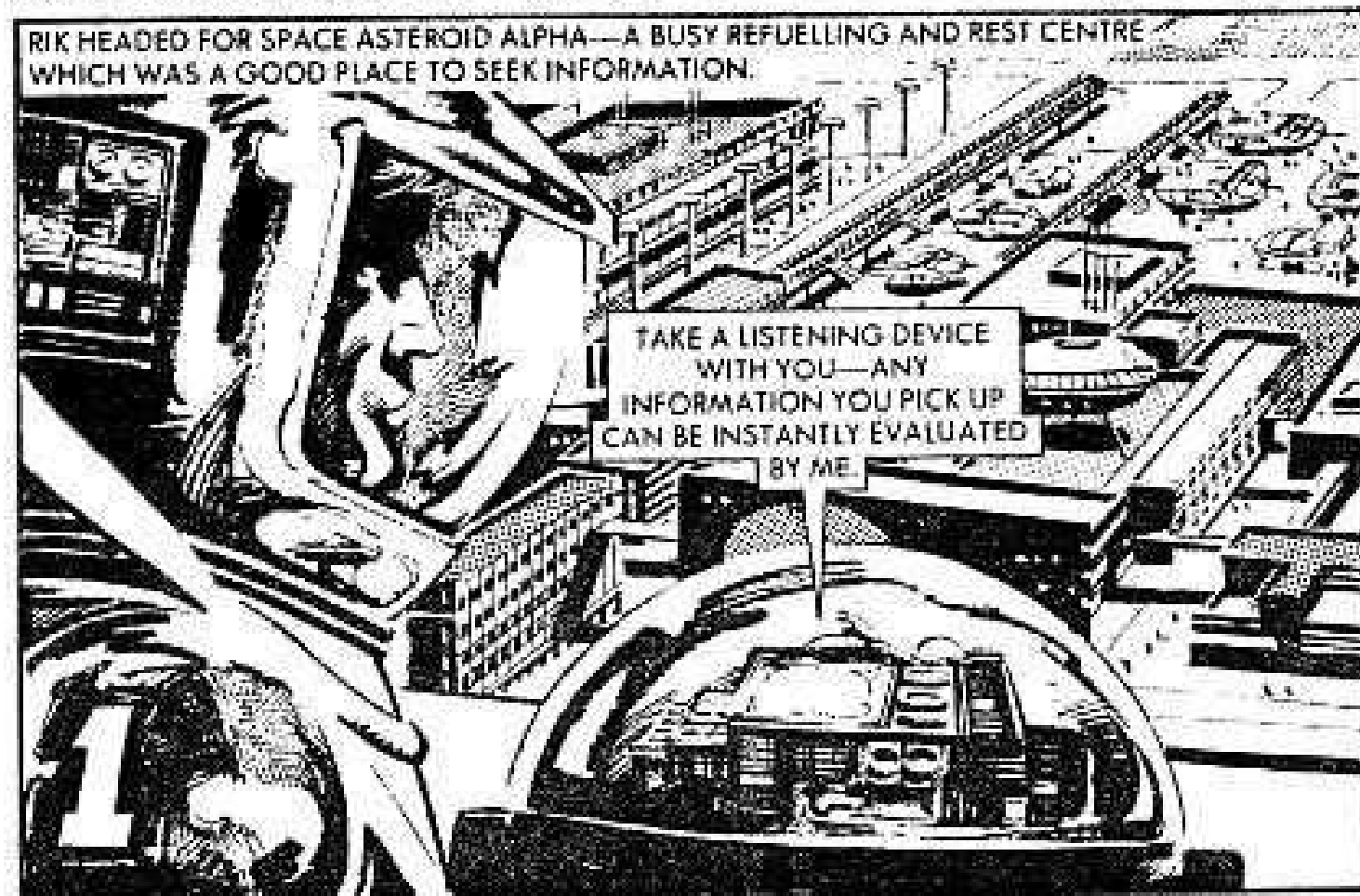


RIK AND HIS TWO ESCORT FIGHTERS BLASTED FREE OF THE SPACESTATION'S GRAVITY.





RIK HEADED FOR SPACE ASTEROID ALPHA—A BUSY REFUELLING AND REST CENTRE WHICH WAS A GOOD PLACE TO SEEK INFORMATION.



RIK LANDED AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE REFRESHMENT AREA.



BEN KONRAD ... THE BIGGEST CROOK THIS SIDE OF CALLISTO. I'M LOOKING FOR INFORMATION.



WHAT'S IT WORTH?

IT'S WORTH ME NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT YOU BEING OUTSIDE YOUR PAROLE ZONE ... WHERE WOULD SPACE PIRATES HIDE IN THIS AREA?



SECTOR BETA 4.7 MAYBE ... IT'S A CONTROLLED ZONE. CRAFT AREN'T ALLOWED IN.

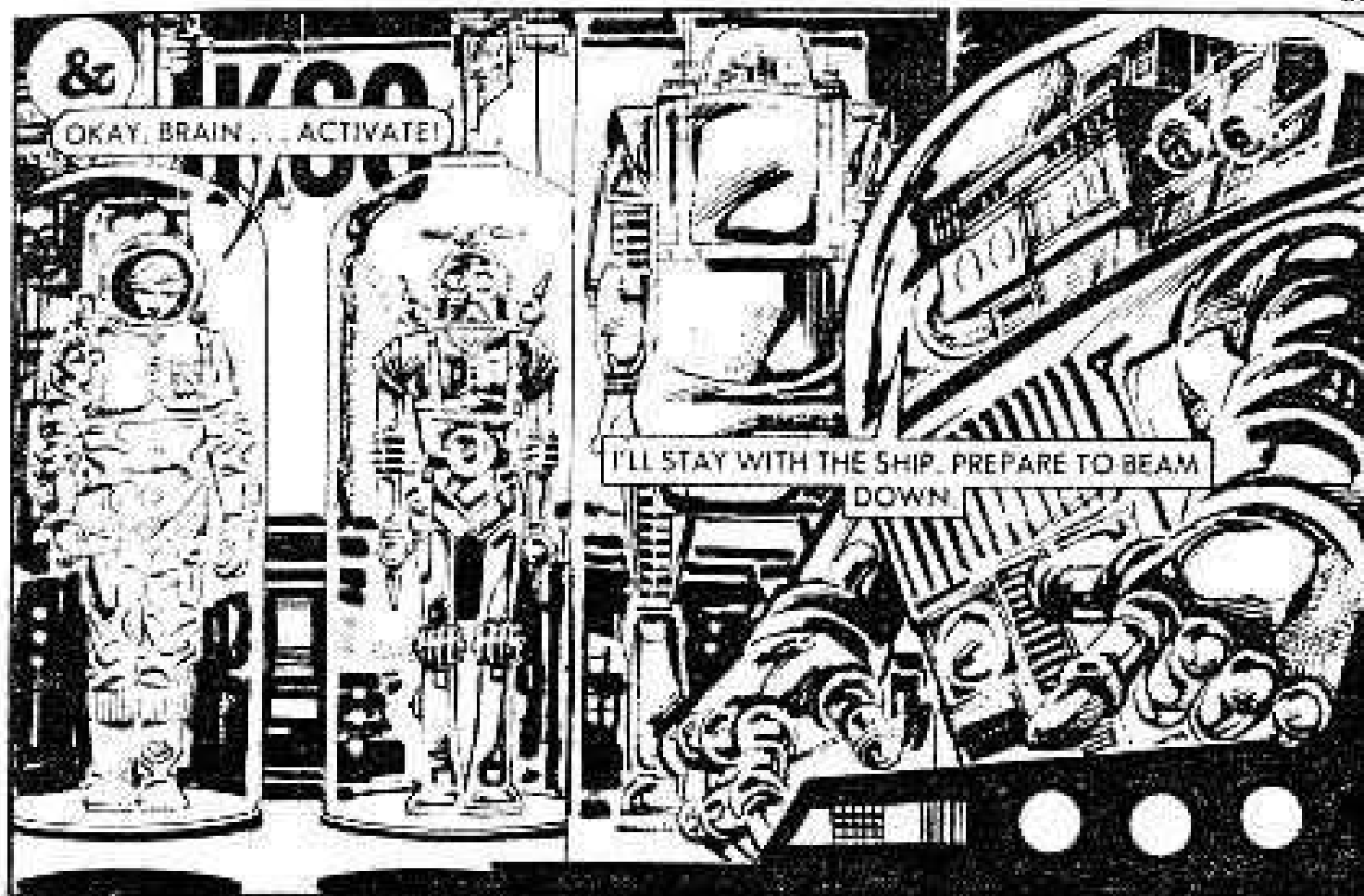
RIK RETURNED AND SPED OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF BETA 4.7.

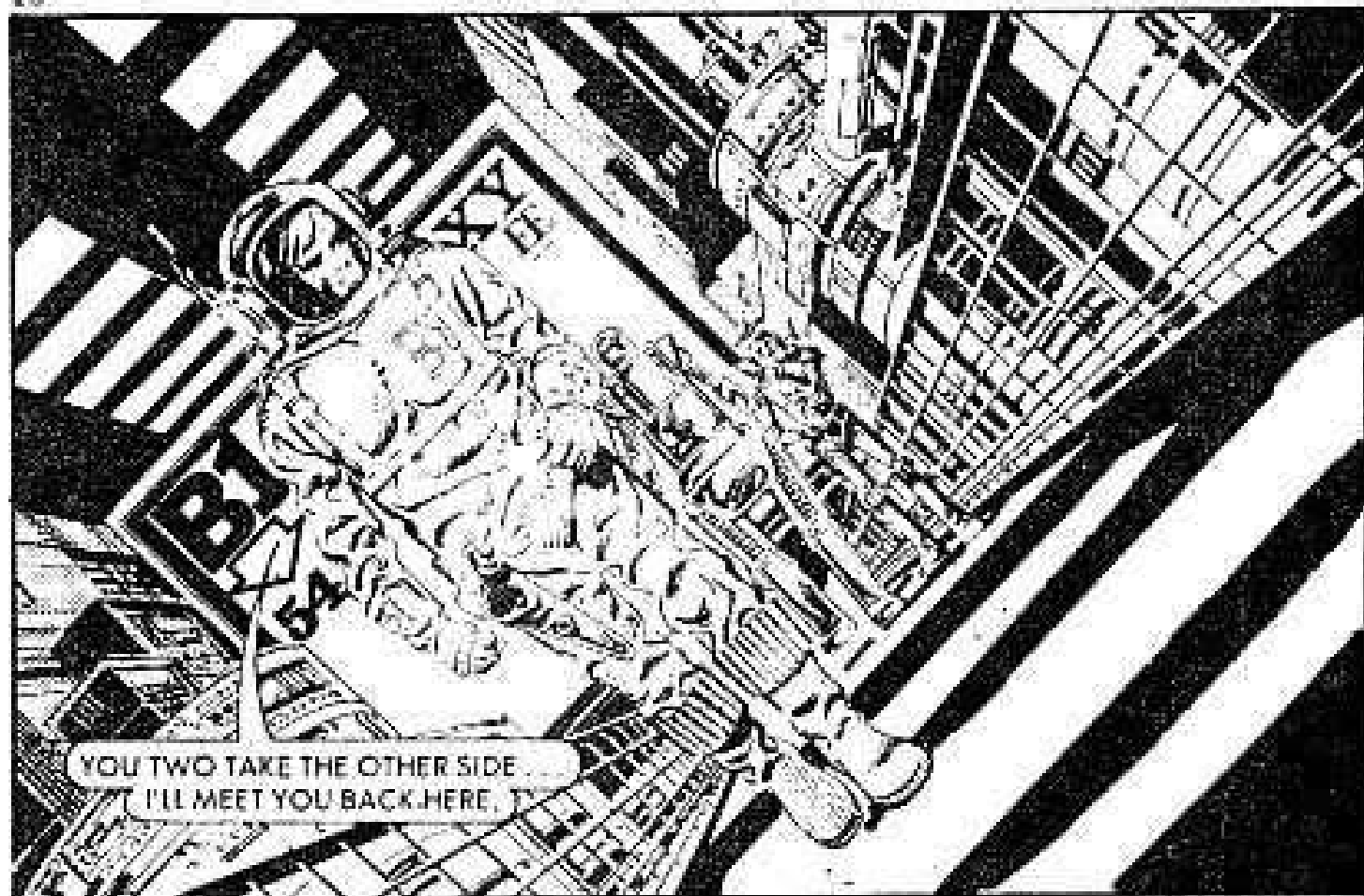
ANALYSIS SHOWS BETA 4.7
CONTAINS DERELICT WEATHER
STATION.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE
THE PLACE TO START.

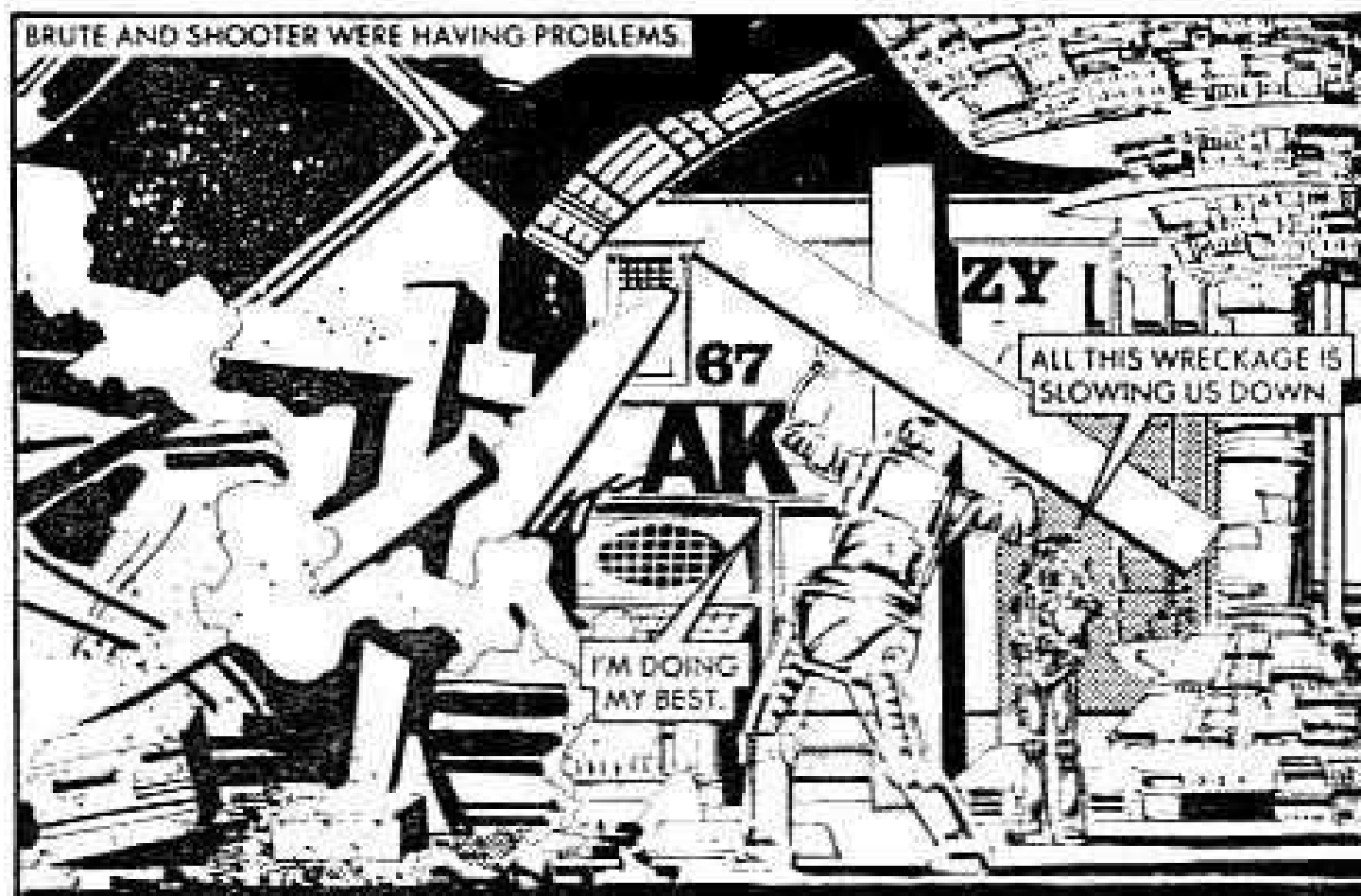
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.

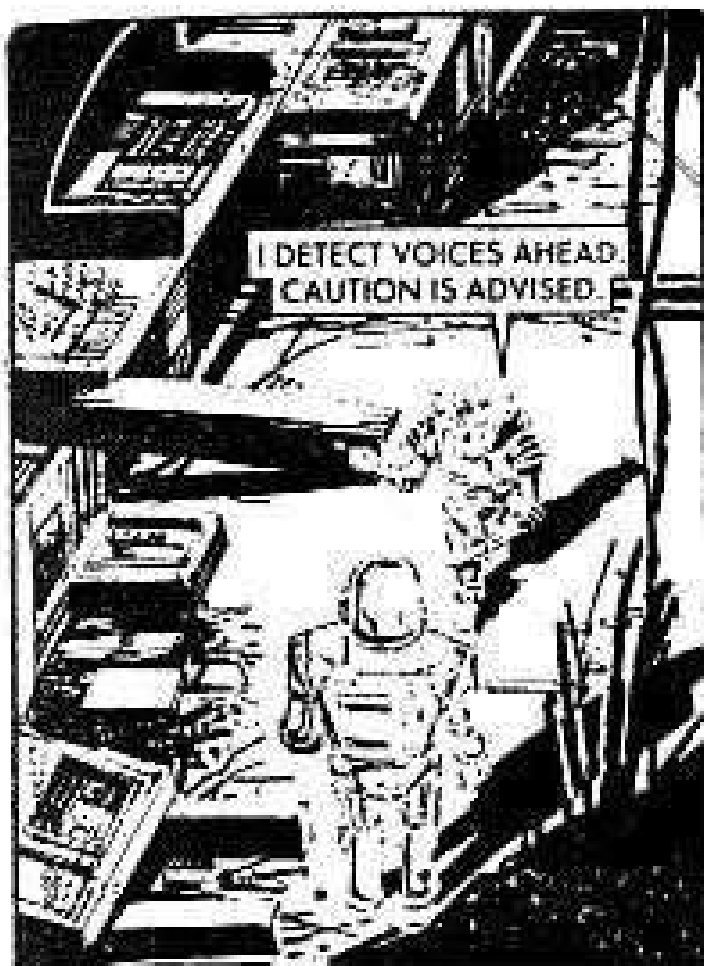
THERE IT IS.
I'LL BEAM DOWN.



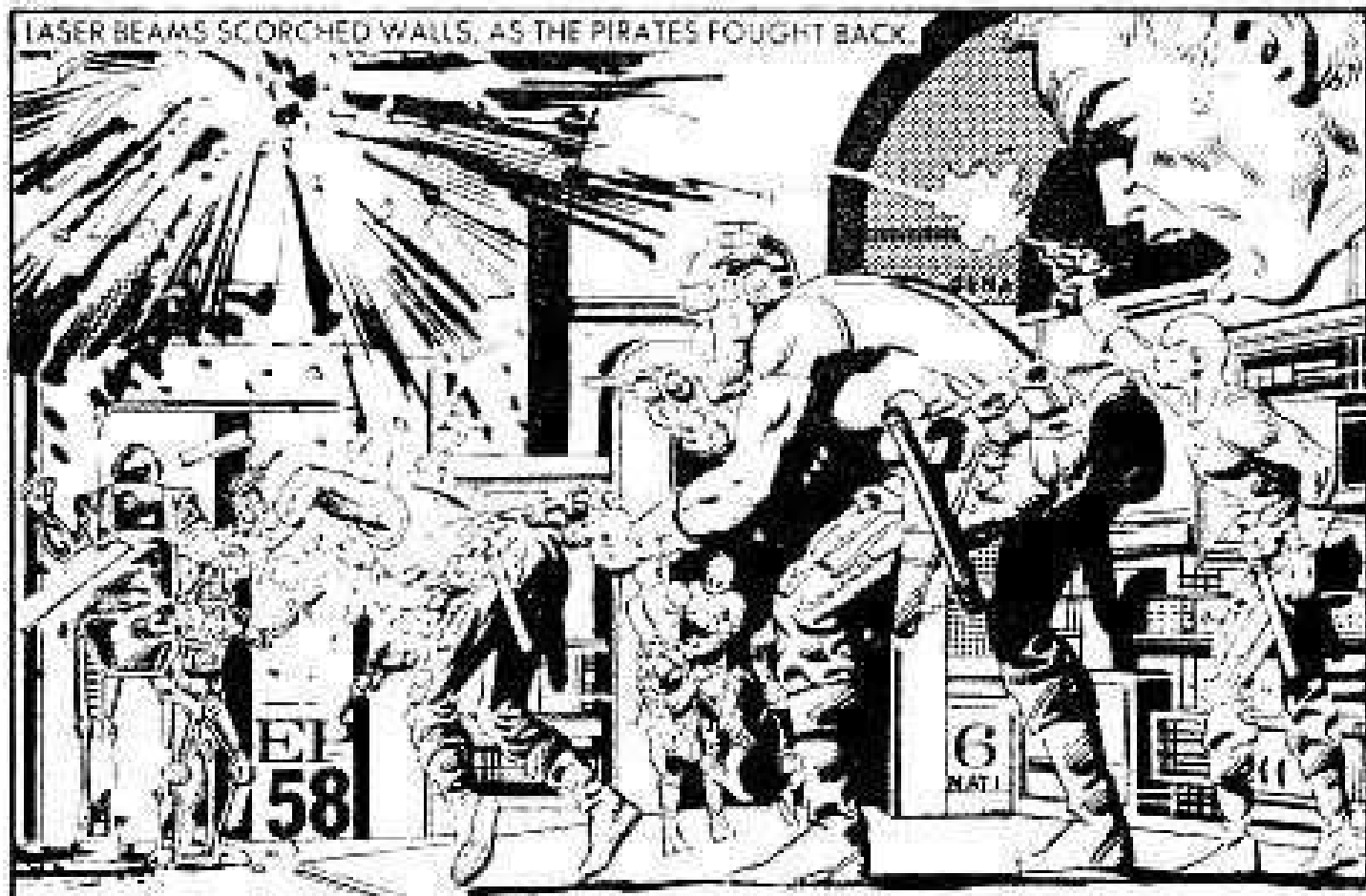








LASER BEAMS SCORCHED WALLS, AS THE PIRATES FOUGHT BACK.



MPENRE

THE ROOF'S COMING DOWN.
THAT'S STOPPED THEM. LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE.



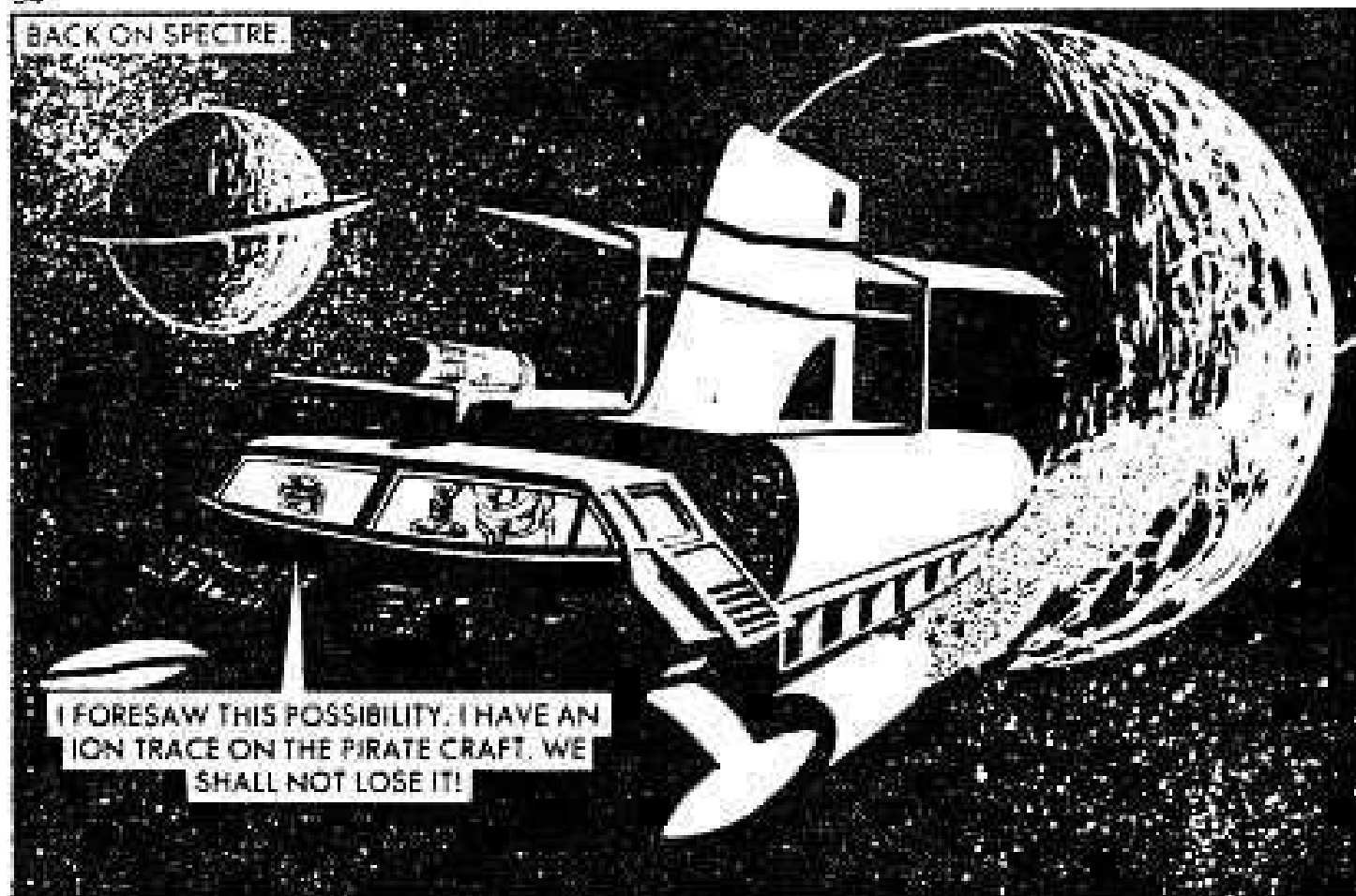
THE COMPARTMENT DEPRESSURISED AND THE TWO ROBOTS FLOATED SLOWLY INTO SPACE.

THEY HAVE TAKEN
THE COMMANDER.

WE HAVE SUFFERED A TEMPORARY SET-
BACK . . . BRAIN WILL HAVE TO BE
CONSULTED. FOLLOW ME BACK TO THE
SHIP.



BACK ON SPECTRE.



I FORESAW THIS POSSIBILITY. I HAVE AN
ION TRACE ON THE PIRATE CRAFT. WE
SHALL NOT LOSE IT!

ON BOARD SKAGA'S VESSEL.



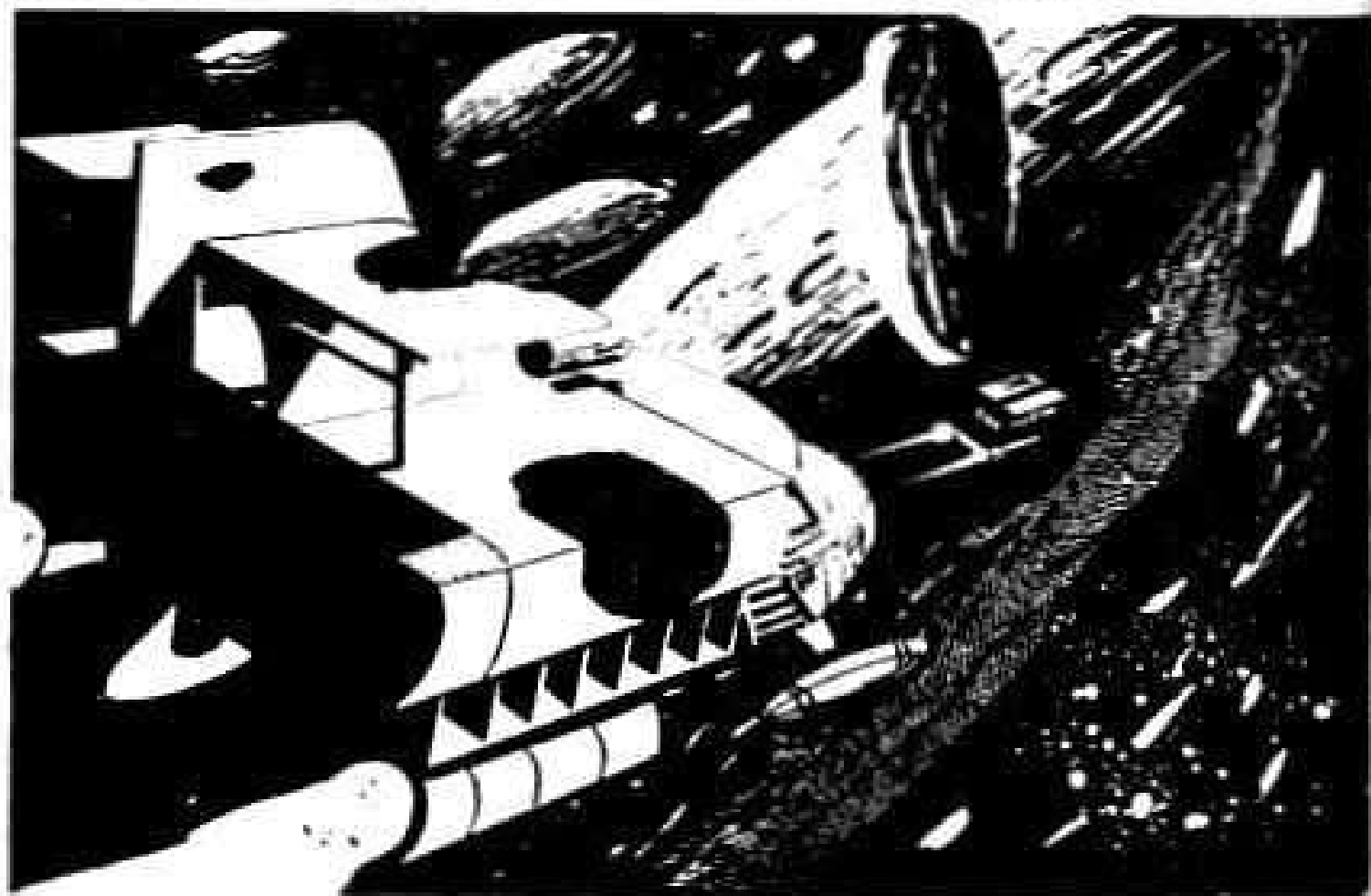
WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED.

FRIENDS OF YOURS, TOR, NO DOUBT. I
HAVE AN IDEA THAT WILL PUT THEM
OFF ATTACKING US.

RIK WAS TAKEN OUT TO THE REAR OF THE PIRATES' SPACECRAFT.

HE'LL MAKE A GOOD SHIELD ONCE
WE'VE SHACKLED HIM HERE.

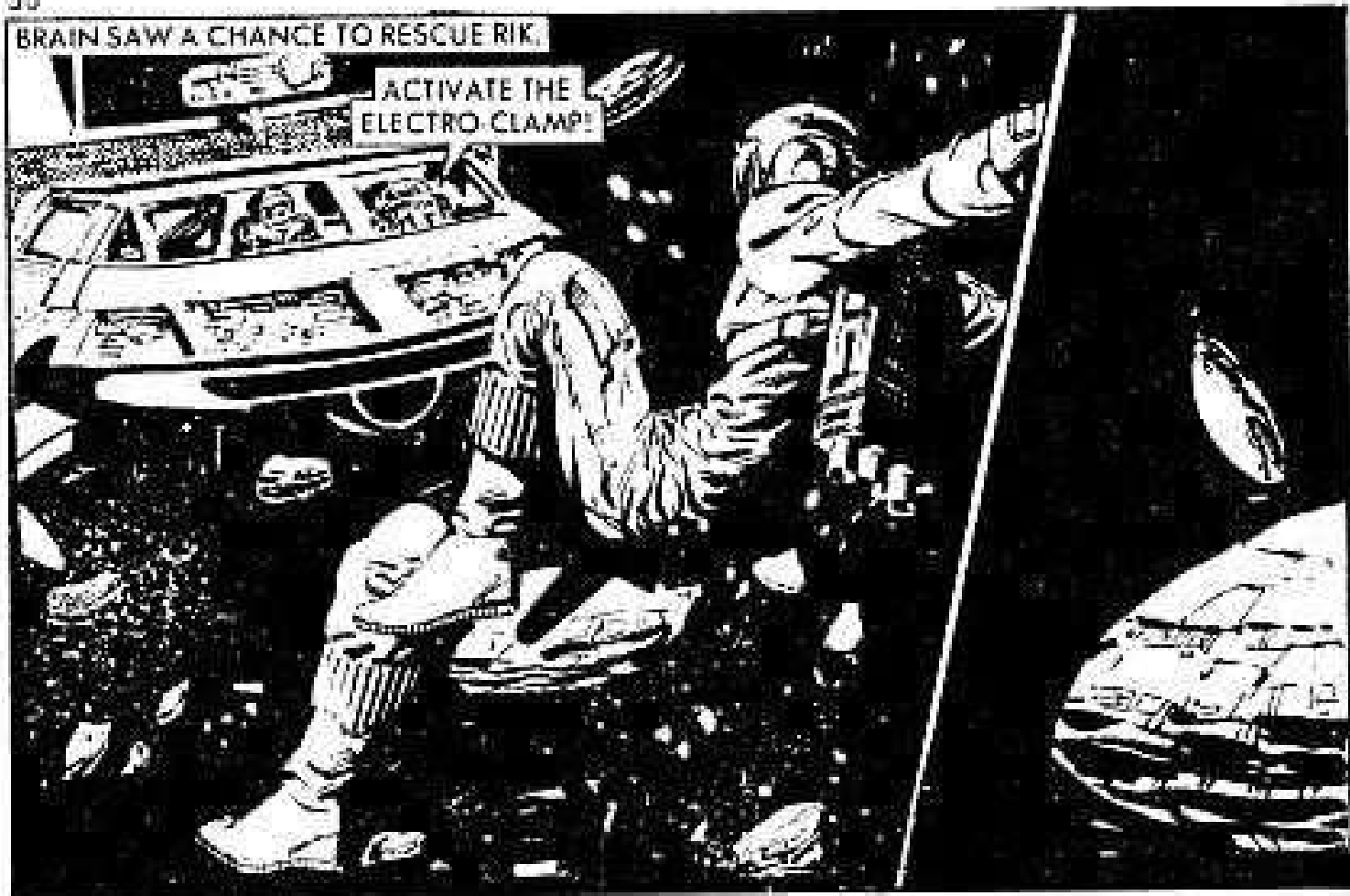






BRAIN SAW A CHANCE TO RESCUE RIK.

ACTIVATE THE
ELECTRO-CLAMP!

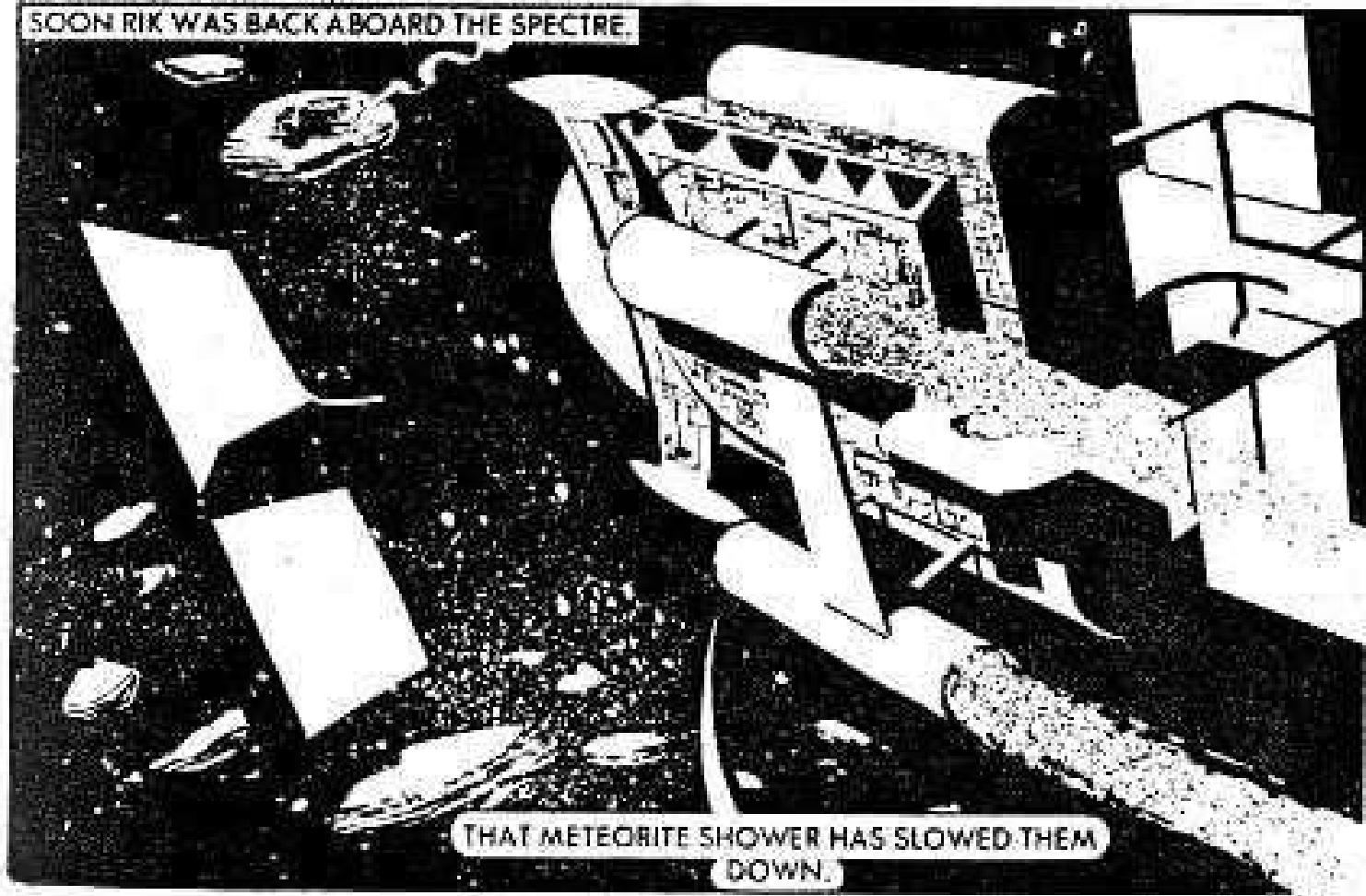


SHOOTER! GET OUT THERE
AND CUT HIM LOOSE.





SOON RIK WAS BACK ABOARD THE SPECTRE.

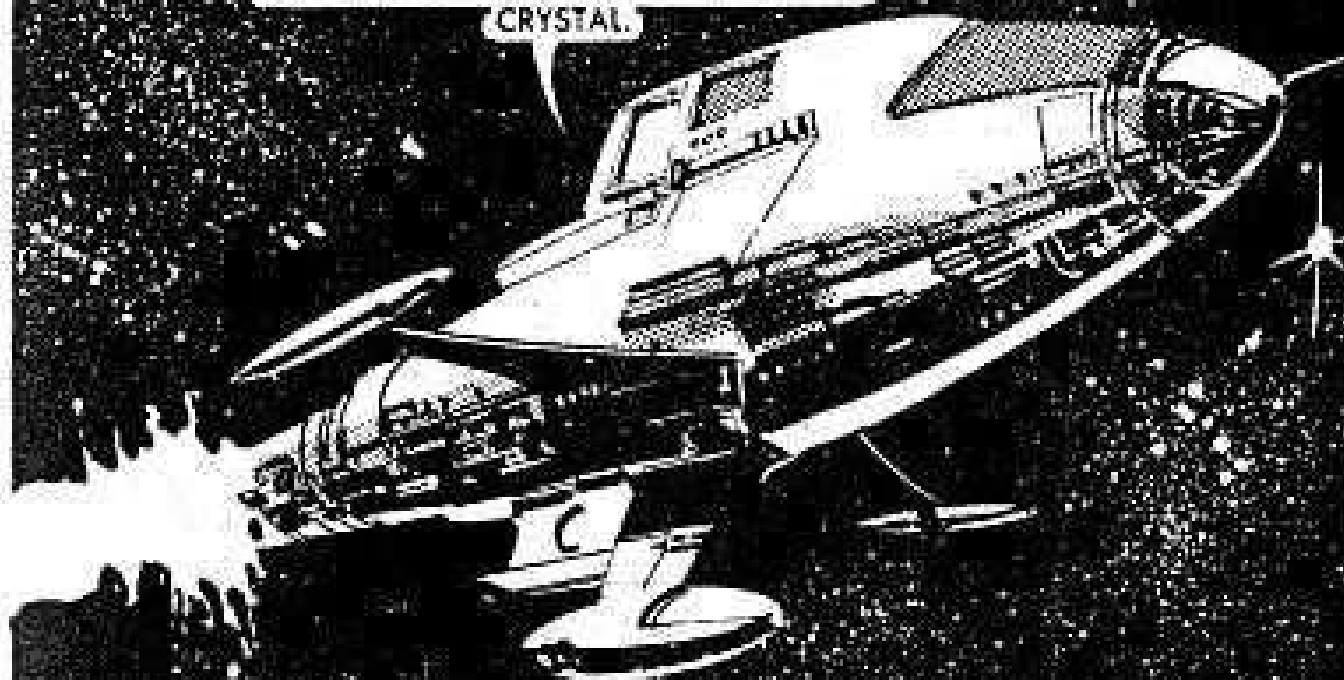


SPECTRE'S VIDSREEN CRACKLED INTO LIFE.



SKAGA HAD RELEASED A REMOTE CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS MISSILE.

LET HIM GO, BRAIN. GET A TRACE ON THE
CRYSTAL.



IF THE MISSILE HITS THAT PLANET . . . NO MORE
CRYSTAL.



THE COM MISSILE PLOUGHED INTO THE PLANET'S SURFACE.



SIR, WE SHALL HAVE TO LAND. THE METEOR
STORM HAS CAUSED A MAIFUNCTION.

RIK MANAGED TO BRING THE SPECTRE DOWN SAFELY.



BRAIN ASSESSED THE DAMAGE.

... SO THE STRONTUN DRIVE CRYSTAL IS CHIPPED, WHICH MEANS WE HAVEN'T GOT THE POWER TO TAKE OFF.



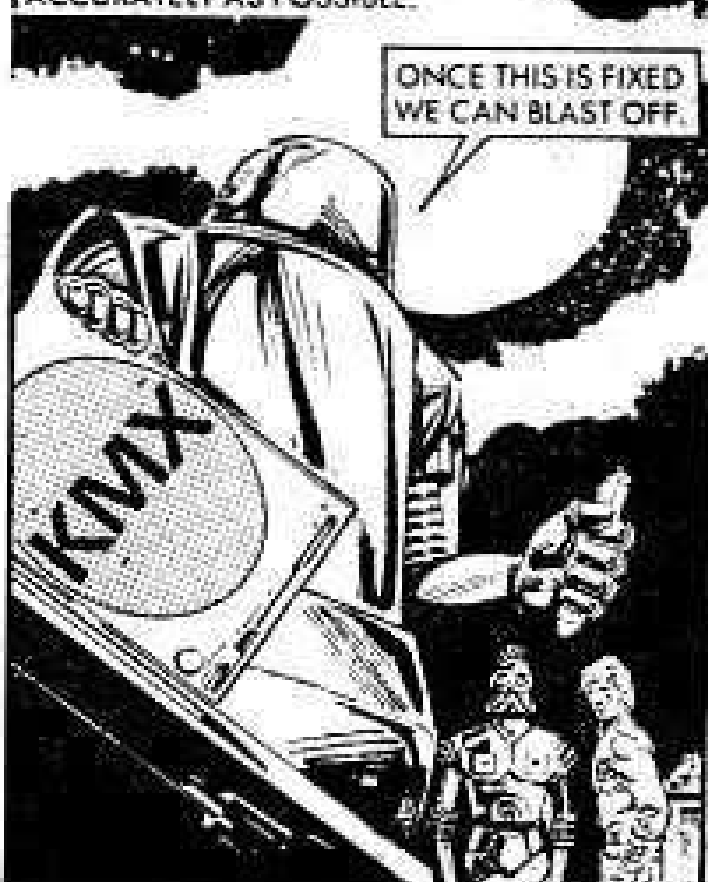




BRAIN PRODUCED A BLUEPRINT AND SHOOTER BEGAN TO CUT.



THE CRYSTAL WAS SOON CUT AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE.



RIK PUT THE BLAST OFF SEQUENCE INTO OPERATION, AND SPECTRE LIFTED OFF ON 70% POWER.



ONLY 70% POWER!

IT'S ENOUGH. THAT IS BECAUSE THE CRYSTAL IS NOT EXACTLY
THE RIGHT SHAPE.



NO CRAFT ON SCAN. HOWEVER, THERE IS AN ASTEROID THAT
DOES NOT HAVE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ASTEROID.

SET A COURSE —
WE'LL CHECK IT OUT.

SPECTRE SWOOPED LOW OVER THE ASTEROID.

HAVE YOU DONE AN ANALYSIS, BRAIN?

THE ASTEROID IS HOLLOW ... THIS DID NOT OCCUR NATURALLY.

THEY LANDED AND SEARCHED FOR AN ENTRANCE.

THIS COULD BE THE PIRATES' BASE.

BRAIN DETECTED AN ENTRANCE.

AN ALARM! WE'LL HAVE
COMPANY ANY MOMENT.





BUT SKAGA HAD ESCAPED



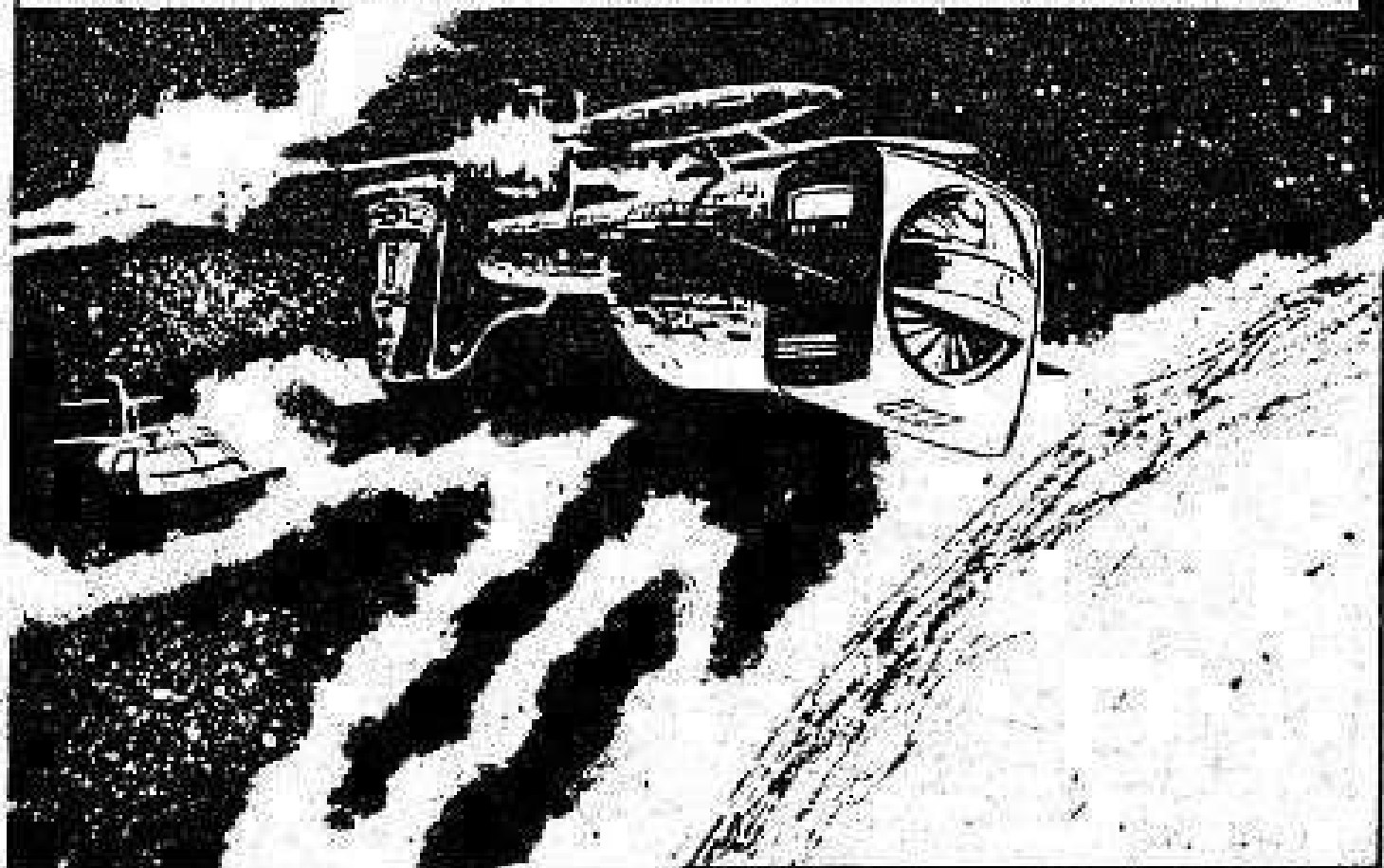
RIK RETURNED TO THE ROBOTS.

MGED
&790 HO
gdb

LEAVE THEM! A SHIP IS
ON THE WAY TO PICK
THEM UP. WE'VE GOT TO
GET AFTER SKAGA.



SKAGA'S SHIP HAD NOT BEEN REPAIRED AND WAS CONSIDERABLY SLOWER THAN THE SPECTRE.



HE'S HEADING FOR YOUNA.
HE MUST BE SHORT OF FUEL.

ALTHOUGH YOUNA WAS UNINHABITED, IT DID CONTAIN A FUEL DEPOT.



EVEN AS RIK BROUGHT THE SPECTRE TO LAND, SKAGA WAS FLEEING.



HE'S GONE—BUT WHERE?







SUDDENLY THE GROUND BENEATH THEM SHOOK.





BRUTE USED HIS STRENGTH TO LOWER RIX DOWN TO SKAGA.





THE THREE WERE PLUNGED INTO AN ABYSS—ONLY BRUTE MANAGED TO STAY CLEAR.



CERTAIN DEATH WAS AVERTED BY A CUSHION OF FINE DUST.





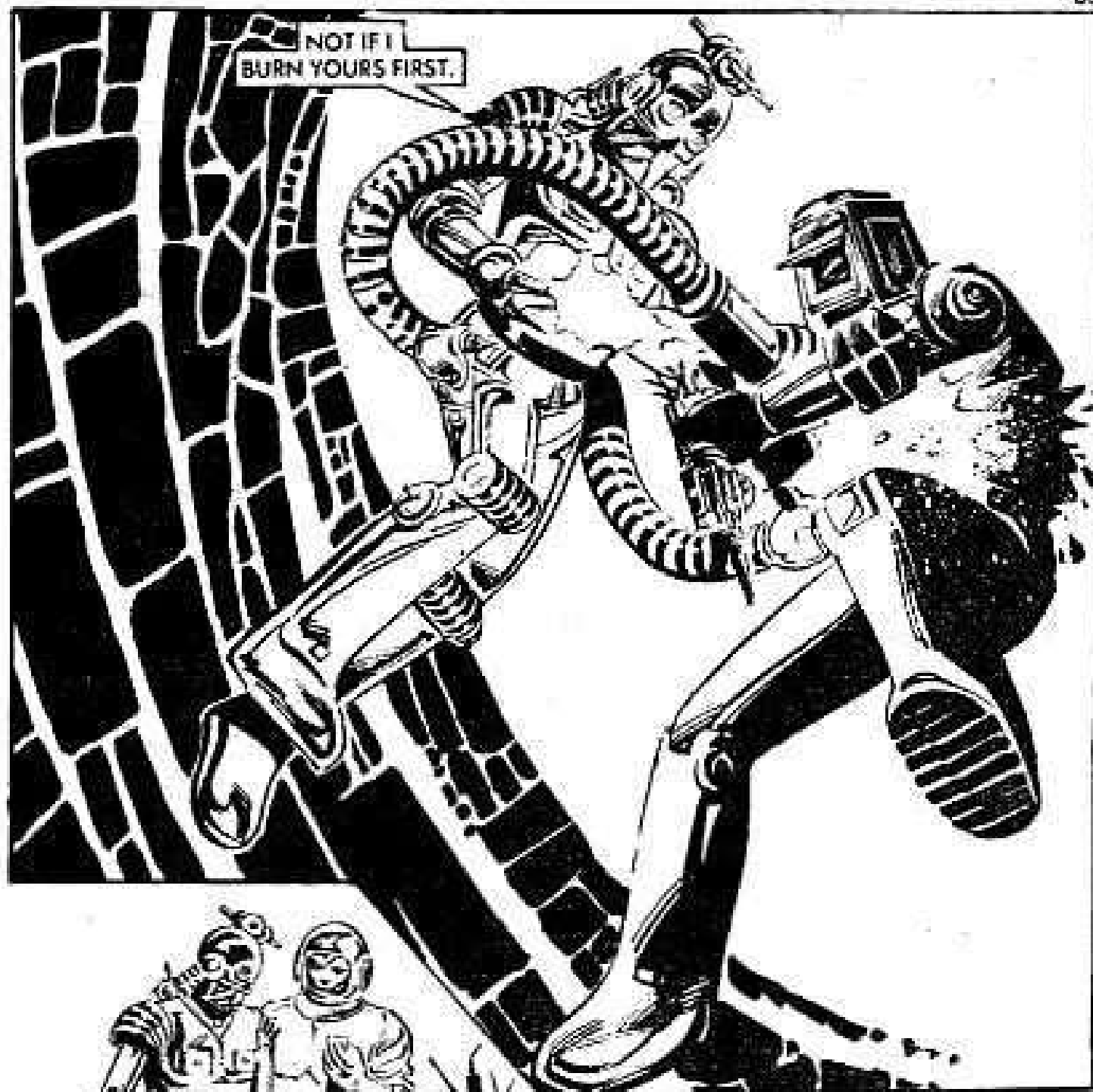
BUT THEY WERE NOT ALONE!



I THINK THIS
IS A JOB FOR ME







ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CIRCUITS
HAVE CEASED TO FUNCTION. I HAVE
A LIMITED TIME ON AUXILIARY POWER.



RIK FOUND THE SHIP AN HOUR LATER.

WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED DOWN THAT CHASM I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE TO GO BACK TO BASE WITHOUT YOU.

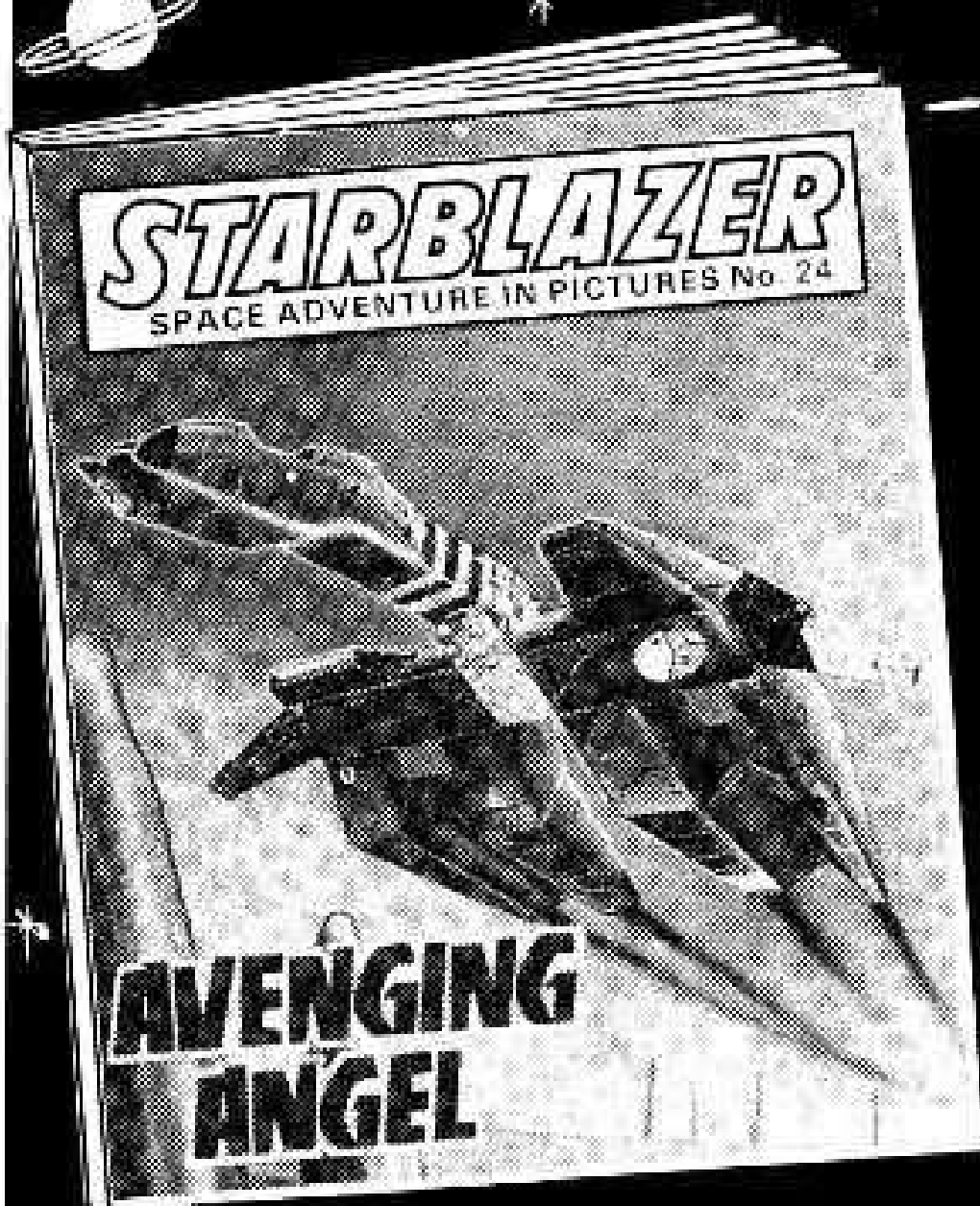
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

THE SPECTRE BLASTED OFF FROM YOUNA.





**DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**



**ON SALE
AT YOUR
NEWS-
AGENT'S**

NOW!

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 25



On 27th January 1967, on pad 34 at Cape Kennedy, three astronauts were inside an Apollo capsule atop a Saturn 1 rocket. Suddenly, the inside of the spacecraft caught fire and in the pure oxygen atmosphere soon became an inferno. The three spacemen, preparing to make the first manned Apollo flight, died. They were Gus Grissom, the second American to fly into space in 1961, Ed White, the first American spacewalker, and new man Roger Chaffee.